

VZCZCXRO5641  
RR RUEHQU  
DE RUEHPU #0355 0532040  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 222040Z FEB 06  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2429  
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0979  
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 1488  
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 1968  
RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 2666  
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 1621  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0829  
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0365  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0267  
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 0416  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0852  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 000355

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR, DRL, S/CRS  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PKAO](#) [EAID](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: MINUSTAH PROJECTS ONE WEEK DELAY FOR SECOND ROUND

REF: A. PORT-AU-PRINCE 336

[1](#)B. PORT-AU-PRINCE 323

[1](#)1. MINUSTAH officials project a delay of one week from the previously announced date of March 19 for the second round run-off election. They blame the slippage primarily on the delay in vote tabulation, caused by public demonstrations in reaction to the presidential vote count (ref B). They also attribute delays in the parliamentary vote count to the improvised nature of many of the tally sheets that have handwritten lists of candidates in random order.

[1](#)2. The timeline proposed by MINUSTAH will require approval and cooperation by the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). The CEP must address any contestations to the results expeditiously, complying with the 24 hour window provided in the electoral law. Almost as important as dealing with the contestation period, will be the CEP's prompt approval and publication of the final candidate list.

[1](#)3. MINUSTAH's the proposed timeline follows:

- Final candidate list must be available by:  
March 4
- Printing of ballots (in Santo Domingo)  
for 9 Departments (not incl. West):  
March 5 - 12
- Delivery convoy, Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince:  
March 13 or 14
- Deployment of electoral materials to voting  
centers (VCs) for 9 Departments (not incl. West):  
March 15 - 25
- Printing of ballots for West Department:  
March 16 - 18
- Delivery convoy, Santo Domingo to Port-au-Prince:  
March 19 or 20
- Deployment of electoral materials to VCs in West  
Department:  
March 21 - 25
- Second Round Election Day:  
March 26.

14. Comment: According to the Haitian constitution, a parliament must be in place to swear in the new president. Thus, any delay in the second round would cause the delay of a constitutional transfer of power. We have made this point forcefully to IGOH officials, but, as was the case in preparing for the first round, we expect to be monitoring CEP officials and MINUSTAH advisors on a daily basis in order to hold to schedule. First and foremost, the CEP and the IGOH must resolve the dispute between CEP director general Jacques Bernard and his adversaries on the CEP so that Bernard may resume his management of the process. End Comment.  
CARNEY